

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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SUBJECT Austrians Anticipate Communist Disturbances

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Austrian Communist Party (KPOe) is reported to be organizing small sabotage units among factory workers in the Western provinces. One of the most active organizers is the KPOe official Hans Gruemm, who instructs small groups of Communists at meetings held in private homes in the [redacted] Zone of Austria. He advocates such methods of industrial sabotage as the damaging of machinery and slow-down of production. There is no evidence that the KPOe is storing explosives for sabotage purposes.

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2. Several Werkschutz units shifted their locations during November and December 1950. This movement may have been the basis for the unsubstantiated reports of an increase in the size of the Werkschutz.

3. Reliable reports concerning KPOe strike plans are borne out by a marked increase in Communist agitation among factory workers. If the Four-Power conference to be held [redacted] is regarded as a failure by the Russians, they may then permit Austrian Communists to launch a general strike. Future labor disturbances may reach the proportions of the October 1950 demonstrations.

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4. The Austrian security service (Public Security Direction of the Ministry of the Interior) has identified most of the Communist agitators in the Western Zones of Occupation, and is capable of controlling Communist violence in those areas.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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